

PRESIDENT'S REPORT
1967 - 1968

For the year 1967 / 1968, a total of five General Meetings, three ~~Special~~ Special Meetings and five Executive Meetings were held. The first meeting was held on September 29th, 1967. Interest and involvement of the members is shown in the attendance at meetings and the matters discussed and motions passed. The average attendance at General and Special meetings was 45.

The year began with the hosting of the Caribbean Conference by the Society at Sir George.

One major involvement on Campus was in the International Festival at which we took part in all the activities and were responsible for the co-ordination of the Variety Show. For this part of the Festival, I am very grateful to Messrs Selwyn Carrington and Gilbert Simmons. Our Princess Miss Habza Karamath was crowned International Queen and in this respect, Miss Margaret St. Jour merits special thanks. For the International Buffet, I owe thanks to Mrs Charles and for general help during this period, I thank all who contributed of your time and energy especially Mrs Myrtle Ballantyne.

With respect to future International Festivals, I feel that the Society should refuse to participate unless Presidents of the ethnic clubs decide on the more important facets of the event.

We all know that during the year, members of the Society volunteered to serve on a Committee for the drafting of a Constitution involving also a change of name from West Indian Society to Caribbean Students' Society. To these members, Messrs Dhanoo, Thomas, Jagan, Robinson, Cato and Willoughby, I say thank you.

Two Social Evenings were held during the year for the members of the Society - one in December 1967 and the other in February 1968. For the assistance given on these occasions, I wish to thank Miss Bernice Brown, Mrs Myrtle Ballantyne, Sam Willoughby, J. Orestes Cato, Mr. Lloyd Duncan and last but not least, a non- Georgian, Mr. Peterkin, who supplied the music free of charge.

A Christmas Dance was held in conjunction with the McGill West Indian Society. This dance was not a financial success but for its' organisation, I owe thanks to Mr Carlos Chambers. The Society co-sponsored the visit of Dr. Cheddi Jagan to this University and invited three other speakers - Dr. Elton Richardson, Mr. Clarence Bayne and Mr. Henry Beissel.

Three members of the Society were nominated for and elected to the Garnet Key Society of Sir George this year - Sam Willoughby (Secretary), Noida Ashton and Gloria Pierre (President).

I also owe special thanks to Misses Claire Belgrave and Yvonne Smart for assisting with typing and to Miss Margaret St. Jour who willingly prepared posters for us whenever necessary and oft-times at very short notice.

To each and everyone I say thank you for having given me the opportunity to serve and also for your support in big things and in little things. This year I have gone through the whole gamut of emotions. I'll always remember my first meeting and how difficult it was to cope with uproar and dissension which I can now take in my stride.

I have learned a lot and do not regret having held the post of President. I accepted the job without realizing how much it involved, neither did I know very much about student politics or student administration but I learnt the hard way and that was very time consuming. I therefore state publicly that whatever knowledge I have gained is at the disposal of the new Executive.

I hope that the new President gets the same type of support that I received from my Executive. Without them, I would have got absolutely nowhere. We have had no startling achievements this year and my Executive and I feel that we have achieved what we set out to - and that was a bringing together again of Caribbean students on Campus and the setting up of open debate.

Let us not rest on this however but rather give the new Executive the support that is needed to enable to press on and build. Let us treasure unity of spirit and purpose and act as a unit in areas where it matters most and can be most effective. The most recent and rewarding example of this togetherness of spirit is the donations made by members to aid Mr. R. Ali, a fellow student, whose apartment was damaged by fire. \$97.22 was collected.

Student activities cease next Monday and I wish to advise the more junior members among us to buckle down to some really hard work. To the graduating students, Good Luck in the working world. Good Luck in your Exams and your job hunting and enjoy your summer vacations.

Gloria A. Piewe
March 28, 1968.